(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Banning of slow moving traffic on highways

2301. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were killed in road accidents in India in 2006-07;

(b) whether it is a fact that with just two per cent of the world's roads India accounts for seven per cent of the world's road accidents;

(c) whether Government has any concrete plans to improve safety on Indian roads; and

(d) whether Government would consider banning slow-moving traffic, including two wheelers from accessing highways and expressways on the lines of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per the report by the States/UTs, the number of persons killed on all roads during the year 2006 (the latest available data) is 105749.

(b) The total road length in India as on 31st March, 2004 (the latest available data) is 3621508 Kms which is about 12% of the total world road network. Whereas India's percentage shares in the World's road injury accident is about 5.4% in the total injury accident in the World.

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:

(i) Road Safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety by Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration by this Ministry banning slow-moving traffic from accessing highways and expressways.

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral project

2302. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 230 Kilometres of road is left for completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) project in the country;

(b) if so, whether there are any projects pending for completion under GQ in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts his Ministry is taking to complete the pending projects under GQ in Andhra Pradesh before the deadline of June 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) 196 km of road is left for completion in Golden Quadrilateral Project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.